

STATINTL

CIA's Next Head?

All the jokes now current about nepotism will lose a lot of their humor if Robert F. Kennedy, as has been rumored, supplants Allen Dulles as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The efforts to remove Mr. Dulles, first apparent after the disastrous attempt to invade Cuba, have gained such impetus that now it is a subject for open discussion in Washington circles.

There wasn't much opposition when the President appointed his younger brother as Attorney General of the United States, for he long had been recognized as a sincere, courageous and hard-bitten prosecutor. But espionage, counter-espionage and the compilation and evaluation of intelligence requires an experience and a delicacy of judgement which Robert F. Kennedy as yet hasn't had the opportunity to display.

The rumor was given considerable support when the President directed his Attorney General to investigate the CIA. In view of the Cuban fiasco and other information that has been brought to light since, a thorough, complete and impartial investigation of that agency has been needed for some time.

It is probable that when the CIA

was organized there was no intention to allocate to it the huge power that it has attained over the years, particularly the authority it has not only to evaluate the information which is channeled to it, but to participate in espionage, counter-espionage and other activities which in some cases have been kept secret, so recent reports tend to reveal, from its own director.

Be that as it may, the Kennedy administration is running a huge risk if Robert F. Kennedy is named director of the CIA. President Kennedy suffered a considerable loss of personal prestige across the world, as well as in this nation, when the Cuban invasion failed. One bobble by Robert F. Kennedy as head of the CIA and political disaster would be only one of the likely results.

To regain for the administration the confidence that was lost in the ill-fated and poorly-organized Cuban invasion, President Kennedy must move boldly, confidently, even ruthlessly. He has at hand several competent, experienced administrators, some of whom have had considerable intelligence experience, too. One of these would be far more acceptable to the nation as a new CIA director, if one is to be named.